

[Charles Carroll to Gov. Johnson.]

Original

Yorke 21 April 1778

Dear Sir

By a letter from Gen. Smallwood of the 17th instant from Wilmington we are informed of an insurrection of the Forces at a place called Jordans Island 10 miles from Dover—Smallwood apprehends this insurrection may become very serious unless speedily suppressed: his letter is referred to a committee of w^h I am one: we shall report that you be requested to call out 300 of the militia from the adjacent counties of Mary^d & put them under a spirited & active officer, who will receive his instructions from a committee of Congress—I beg your attention to this business—Smallwood writes that we have considerable stores at Charles Town, w^h he fears may be taken or destroyed by these Insurgents: if we have any considerable stores at Charles Town, or at any other place near the bay they run an equal or greater danger of being destroyed by parties from the Enemy's shipping. You can not take too much precaution to secure these or any other stores that may be near the water. M^r Henry has sent you a copy of draughts of two Bills w^h as they are of a most insidious tendency, I make no doubt have long since been passed into Acts of Parlia^t I wish you would employ some ingenious writer to combat & expose the perfidiousness of our Enemies: they stop at nothing. the whole british nation seems rising against us; they will unite art & force to conquer us: I am persuaded they will send over during the course of the summer & fall at least 14000 men, principally british.

Is it not strange that the lust of domination should force the british nation to greater exertions, than the desire of liberty can produce among us?

By the Merany Packet in 7 weeks & 3 days from Falmouth we hear that all hopes of an amicable settle^mt between the Turkes and Russians were at an end by a courier w^h arrived at Warsaw the middle of Dec^r there was reason to believe hostilities had then, or were on the point of being commenced. The elector of Bavaria is dead: his death may possibly involve Germany in a War. If our People would but exert themselves this campaign we might secure our liberties forever—Gen. Washington is weak; reinforcements come in slow: try, for God sake & the sake of human Nature, to rouse our countrymen from their lethargy. Gates will command a body of men in the Highlands on Hudson's river for the security of its navigation. The Congress do worse than ever—We murder time, and chat it away in idle impertinent talk: however I hope the urgency of affairs will teach even that Body a